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Flood Safety Awareness

What is your risk of having a flood? Did you know that it is almost three times greater than for having a fire, 26% versus 9%? You probably already have fire insurance coverage on your home, business or rental property, but do you have coverage for a flood?

Many people feel that if they are not in a flood plain they don't need to worry. However, last year one-third of the claims paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) were for property in low risk areas.

You should be aware that your homeowner, business and renters policies do not cover damages resulting from a flood. In fact, coverage for flooding is specifically excluded. To check into the cost of such a policy you should contact your agent or insurance company to see if your community participates in the NFIP. For more information and a definition of what a flood is visit NFIP's site at www.floodsmart.gov.

Now that our mountains are full of snow and the weather is beginning to warm, flooding is a possibility. The question on the minds of meteorologists is, "How fast will temperatures increase?" If the temperatures rise too quickly, run-off could cause flooding. The next couple of months will tell the story. **Just be aware that if you do purchase a flood policy that it does not take effect for 30 days.**

If you still have questions after talking with your agent or insurance company call the Utah Insurance Department's Property and Casualty Division at (801)538-3035 and talk with one of our specialists.

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